

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

COMMANDER UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET 250 MAKALAPA DRIVE PEARL HARBOR HI 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:

December 29, 2021

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole Hawaii State Senate Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Representative Ryan Yamane Hawaii State House of Representatives Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Follow-up Information on Navy's Water Distribution System Activities

Aloha Senator Keohokalole and Representative Yamane,

Following up on my December 23, 2021 letter of the same subject, I offer the following update regarding actions the Navy is taking to restore the Navy water distribution system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to safe drinkable standards. As before, I assure you that providing safe drinking water to our families and neighbors in an environmentally sensitive manner remains my top priority.

My December 23rd letter informed you of the plans, developed by an interagency team with members of Navy Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), the Hawaii Department of Health (HI DoH), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, in consultation with subject matter experts from the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps, to restore the Navy's drinking water system. Since December 20th, we have been flushing the distribution lines of various Zones of the Navy's system. A detailed map of the Navy's water system Zones and flushing progress is available at <a href="http://www.cpf.navy.mil/JBPHH-Water-Updates">http://www.cpf.navy.mil/JBPHH-Water-Updates</a>.

Once the distribution lines of a particular Zone are flushed and required water samples are taken and tested within limits, we will begin to flush individual residences and non-residential facilities in that Zone, according to standard operating procedures developed by the HI DoH, EPA, Navy and Army. After all required flushing has been completed in a particular Zone, and a series of certified laboratory water tests have been conducted to certify that the water supply in that Zone/community meets all EPA and HI DoH safe drinking water standards, the HI DoH will amend its Health Advisory and the water in that Zone will no longer have restrictions on its use.

Of special interest to the Department of the Navy, HI DoH, and EPA leadership is the process by which we will release water sample testing results to the public. The test results for a particular Zone will be released in two steps, with the first step after flushing and testing the main distribution lines in a neighborhood, and the second step after completion of residence and facility flushes and testing in that neighborhood. Specifically, once we receive all distribution line samples for a particular Zone, those results have been validated by the Interagency Drinking Water System Team (IDWST), and pertinent leadership has been notified, we intend to notify the public via our daily 12:00 PM Facebook Live and make the results available online shortly thereafter. We will execute a similar public release once all required residence and non-residential facility samples in a particular Zone have been received, validated, communicated to

leadership, the HI DoH advisory has been amended and the Zone's water restrictions have been lifted.

As previously mentioned, a graphical depiction of the Zones/neighborhoods, the flushing plan, the sampling plan, a flushing and sampling schedule for each Zone/neighborhood, water sampling results and a host of other related information is available on our Water Crisis website at <a href="http://www.cpf.navy.mil/JBPHH-Water-Updates/">http://www.cpf.navy.mil/JBPHH-Water-Updates/</a>. Additional sources of information are our Call Center (808-449-1979, 808-448-3262/2557/2570/2583) and the JBPHH Facebook page.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hawaii Department of Health and their staff for their assistance and support in this effort. They have been incredibly helpful IDWST team members.

Thank you again for your support and please let me know if I can be of service in any way. I assure you we remain fully committed to restoring the drinking water system as soon as possible. Nothing is more important than the health, safety and well-being of our people, their families, our neighbors, and the communities we call home.

Sincerely,

B. L. CONVERSE Deputy Commander

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Copy to:

The Honorable Senator Ronald Kouchi Senate President, Hawaii State Senate

The Honorable Representative Scott Saiki Speaker, Hawaii House of Representatives

Major General Mark Hashimoto U.S. Indo-Pacific Command